

communities are forever grateful for five decades of hard work and dedication to a better tomorrow.●

REMEMBERING THOMAS KANE GILHOOL

● Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize and pay tribute to Thomas Kane Gilhool, who championed the rights of inclusion for children and adults with disabilities and changed public policy in our country for all people with disabilities. His work was pivotal in affirming the constitutional right of children with disabilities to a public education, increasing community-based services for people with developmental disabilities, and creating a pathway for people with autism and other developmental disabilities to leave institutions and live with neighbors, friends, and family.

Tom Gilhool was an originating member of Philadelphia's Community Legal Services. At the start of his career, he helped to organize, train, and then represented the Philadelphia Welfare Rights Organization and the Residents Advisory Board, as well as other organizations representing residents in low-income neighborhoods. The recognition agreements he secured empowered those organizations to effectively represent welfare recipients and public housing tenants and served as models that were replicated throughout the country.

Tom Gilhool's seminal accomplishment was his groundbreaking representation of plaintiffs in the Pennsylvania Association for Retarded Citizens (PARC) v. the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the Nation's first civil rights case brought on behalf of children with disabilities. Kate Fialkowski, sister of two boys represented in the case, remembers Tom as "an intellectual giant, lawyer, and legal historian," someone "who used his gifts not for self-aggrandizement, but instead to raise up the lives of others, including those with intellectual and developmental disabilities." Prior to this case, children with disabilities were all but excluded from attending public schools. The decree of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 1972 paved the way for the 1975 passage of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act, now known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act—IDEA—which affirmed every child's right to a free and appropriate public education in the least restrictive environment.

Tom Gilhool's work on PARC v. Pennsylvania led to another landmark case on behalf of people with disabilities. In *Pennhurst State School and Hospital v. Halderman*, 1981, Tom Gilhool was lead counsel for residents of Pennhurst State School and Hospital, the residential home to almost 3,000 people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. By 1968, Pennhurst was exposed as an overcrowded, violent, and abusive setting.

Through Tom's work, the right to habilitation in non-segregated settings was established. The ruling in *Pennhurst v. Halderman* was the forerunner of the 1999 *Olmstead v. LC* Supreme Court decision, establishing the right to treatment and services in community-based settings. Since that case, nearly 200,000 people have moved from abusive, segregated settings where they had been deprived of dignity, respect, and their basic needs. Tom Gilhool's work made it possible for millions of children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities to avoid such places.

The cases Tom Gilhool argued laid much of the foundation for the passage of the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act. Judith Gran, a long-time colleague of Tom Gilhool at the Public Interest Law Center said, "Tom was the most effective civil rights lawyer of his generation. Without his vision and strategic gifts, [people with disabilities] might not have the right to education and the right to live in the community."

In 2012, *Pennhurst v. Halderman* was cited by Chief Justice John Roberts in upholding the constitutionality of key provisions of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act in the *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius*.

When my father was elected Governor of Pennsylvania in 1986, he asked Tom to serve as Secretary of Education. Tom worked hard for the children of Pennsylvania from 1987 to 1989.

Thomas Gilhool's tremendous contributions to the lives and rights of people with disabilities and their families are immeasurable. His accomplishments will continue to benefit all people with disabilities and inspire all who continue to work to protect the rights and freedoms of people with disabilities.●

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message from the President of the United States was communicated to the Senate by Ms. Neiman, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a nomination which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:18 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 881. An act to improve understand and forecasting of space weather events, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2574. An act to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to restore the right to individual civil actions in cases involving disparate impact, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3659. An act to establish an Anti-Bullying Roundtable to study bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4979. An act to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support STEM education and workforce development research focused on rural areas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4990. An act to direct the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the National Science Foundation to carry out research and other activities to promote the security and modernization of voting systems, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7909. An act to facilitate access to child care services safely and securely during the COVID-19 pandemic.

H.R. 8162. An act to express the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Education should provide certain waivers to community learning centers, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 2683. An act to establish a task force to assist States in implementing hiring requirements for child care staff members to improve child safety.

At 4:55 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2694. An act to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 2574. An act to amend title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to restore the right to individual civil actions in cases involving disparate impact, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 2694. An act to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3659. An act to establish an Anti-Bullying Roundtable to study bullying in elementary and secondary schools in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4979. An act to direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support STEM education and workforce development